

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 03482 062109Z

11
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /031 W
----- 104070

R 062053Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4450
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTO DOMINGO 3482

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, DR
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ORDERS RELEASE OF TWO ACCUSED DOMINICANS

REF: SD 1615

1. PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAS ORDERED JUSTICE AUTHORITIES TO BEGIN STEPS TOWARD RELEASE OF TWO SUSPECTS IN MURDER OF COLUMNIST AND EDITOR ORLANDO MARINEZ. IN LETTER TO PROCURADOR GENERAL MADE PUBLIC TODAY, BALAGUER SAID THERE APPEARED TO BE INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO WARRANT KEEPING MELVIN MANON, SOCIOLOGIST AND POLITICAL WRITER, AND DIOMEDES MERCEDES, OFFICIAL OF EX-PRESIDENT JUAN BOSCH'S PARTIDO DE LA LIBERACION DOMINICANA (PLD), IN PRISON. HE SAID AUTHORITIES WERE COMMITTING "GRAVE INJUSTICE" IN HOLDING THEM.

2. PRESIDENT'S DIRECT INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF MANON AND MERCEDES IN THIS CELEBRATED CASE CAME AS A SURPRISE AND THE OBSERVATIONS IT PROMPTED DEMONSTRATED THE AMBIVALENCE OF VIEWS ON HIS ROLE IN DECISION MAKING. FOR THOSE WHO HOLD THAT EVERY DECISION ON A MATTER OF IMPORTANCE IS A BALAGUER DECISION THE MOVE LOOKS LIKE POSTURING, SINCE THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF, ACCORDING TO THIS REASONING, MUST HAVE APPROVED THE ARRESTS AND COUNTENANCED THE CONTINUED IMPRISONMENT UNTIL NOW, SOME FOUR MONTHS. IN TODAY'S LISTIN DIARIO, EDITOR RAFAEL HERRERA SPEAKS FOR ANOTHER SET OF OBSERVERS WHEN HE SAYS BALAGUER IS "THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEAST CLANDESTINE AND LEAST CENTRALIST PRESIDENT IN THE WORLD,"

INTERVENING DIRECTLY ONLY "WHEN INERTIA IS ALARMING." HERRERA
INTERPRETS THE MOVE AS "AN EXHORTATION TO THE INDEPENDENCE AND
RECTITUDE OF JUSTICE" IN THE COUNTRY. HE SUGGEST THAT PLD LEADER
RAFAEL LUNA ALSO BE RELEASED ALONG WITH MANON AND MERCEDES.
LUNA IS BEING HELD ON IDENTICAL CHARGES.
HURWITCH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Film Number: D750272-0117
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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TAGS: PINT, DR, (BALAGUER, JOAQUIN), (MARINEZ, ORLANDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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